

**PRIMARY AND RELATED SERVICES FUNDED VIA MCKINNEY-VENTO  
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT IN IOWA  
2003-2006**

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Amount of Grant:

\$23,000

Project Period:

July 2003 to June 2004

**Abstract:**

The project provides tutoring and related support services to homeless children and youth living at the Youth Emergency Services and Shelter of Iowa (YESS) and the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) in Des Moines, Iowa. In the YESS component staff will identify children and youth most in need of services and will provide space at the shelter for a tutor and two tutor assistants to work with these students. The tutor will be a certified teacher with skills in computer-assisted instruction and will provide approximately 500 hours of tutoring and related services to up to 100 children and youth during the school year. Each student will develop learning goals with the assistance of the tutor. Tutoring services will include remedial education utilizing the NovaNET system. Related activities will include coordination between YESS and Heartland Area Education (Heartland conducts an on-site educational program for YESS residents) to facilitate educational success. Des Moines School staff will provide transition and SUCCESS program services to children and youth who are or will be attending one of the Des Moines District's SUCCESS program schools. The IHYC component includes an educational liaison that will facilitate communication and coordination between IHYC staff and school staff. The liaison will also work one-on-one with students to ensure educational success. The liaison will be on-site at both the school and IHYC to offer support and advocacy services to homeless high school youth in the district. The position will ensure that homeless youth receive the services they need in order to experience success in high school. The liaison will facilitate enrollment and expedite the access of school records and will act as a support to the youth for enrollment, daily attendance, and problem solving when teacher-student conflicts arise. The liaison will provide approximately 700 hours of tutoring and related services to approximately 60 youth during the school year.

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2003-2006**

Name of LEA:	Cedar Rapids Community School District
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Amount of Grant:	\$23,000
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Project Period:	July 2003 to June 2004
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**Abstract:**

The project for homeless children and youth is an extension of Cedar Rapids present programming opportunities for at-risk children and their families. A full-time Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth coordinates a variety of activities to assist homeless families with school age children and youth. Activities for homeless children and youth includes:

(1) establishing enrollment procedures that expedite access to educational opportunities and removes traditional barriers, (2) providing remedial, enrichment, instructional and assessment services within the regular classroom, (3) providing after school educational activities for school age children, (4) working closely with social service agencies and shelter directors and serving on two local coordinating committees, (5) providing staff and community in-service on issues affecting the homeless and providing “sensitivity” in-service to administrators and school staff, (6) stabilizing students in their last attendance site by providing school busing, city bus tickets, mileage reimbursement, or cab service, (7) providing school supplies, school pictures, weather appropriate clothing, rent or deposit assistance, food and holiday gifts, and (8) working with district staff to identify homeless children and youth.

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2003-2006**

Name of LEA:	Iowa City Community School District
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School Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth:	Joan Vanden Berg
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Amount of Grant:	\$23,000
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Project Period:	July 2003 to June 2004
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**Abstract:**

The **LINKS Project** combines \$75,000 of ICCSD funds with the McKinney-Vento funds to provide a comprehensive program for homeless children and youth. The program includes a district-wide system for identification, support services to prevent delays in enrollment, parent support, professional development activities, academic support, counseling, transportation, and full access to all district services and programs. The LINKS Project will target program resources to enhance information sharing and referrals among agencies serving homeless children and youth and ICCSD schools. McKinney grant funds will directly support: (1) van service to reduce school transfers, (2) partial support for Family Resource Center Coordinator positions, (3) extra contract time for counselors/at-risk personnel at the secondary schools to conduct professional development activities and identify and support homeless students, (4) summer school scholarships, and (5) bus passes. A priority of the program is to offer transportation to and from school. The Links program collaborates closely with local shelters, transitional housing programs and United Action for Youth's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. Expected outcomes include no delays in enrollment, increased numbers of homeless children and youth identified, increased academic achievement, increased attendance. Increase in number remaining in school of origin, increased sense of belonging and connection to school, more parent involvement, more parent access to resources, and decreased number of students with emotional crisis/behavior problems.

**PRIMARY AND RELATED SERVICES FUNDED VIA MCKINNEY-VENTO  
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2003-2006**

Name of LEA:	Ottumwa Community School District
Project Director:	John Ohlinger
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School Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth:	Toby Shepard-Mitchell (641) 683-1342 Fax: (641) 684-6854
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Amount of Grant:	\$23,000
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Project Period:	July 2003 to June 2004
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**Abstract:**

For 143 students in the District in 2001-2002, homelessness was just one of the many barriers to school success. Homelessness impacts students in a variety of areas---falling behind academically; personal needs for food, school supplies, clothing, and transportation; and mental health issues. To address some of the more pressing concerns of these children and youth, the District will provide assistance in four key areas: supplemental instruction, personal needs, counseling, and staff development. With one of the highest dropout rates in the state, Ottumwa struggles to keep students in school. For homeless students, attendance becomes one reason they fall behind in classes. Summer courses provide opportunities for students to catch up and graduate with their peers but the costs for many students make this option prohibitive. This grant will provide funds to assist elementary, middle and high school students to attend summer school. Many times, homeless students have emergency situations where food, clothing, and transportation needs become an issue. This can also impact the family's ability to provide the necessary school supplies. Funds from this proposal will support student needs in these areas. Although the district provides some counseling services, there is not enough to meet the need of this high-risk population. It is not uncommon for this population to have needs that simply can't be met by a guidance counselor. Homeless students' need group or individual counseling sessions provided by a qualified mental health counselor. The grant will allow the district to expand current services to better meet the needs of homeless students.

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2003-2006**

Name of LEA:	Sioux City Community School District
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School Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth:	Marilyn Charging
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Amount of Grant:	\$23,000
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Project Period:	July 2003 to June 2004
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**Abstract:**

The project components include: (1) after-school tutorial programming, (2) staff development for district staff, (3) identification of homeless children and youth through the district's social health teams and a community awareness campaign, (4) coordination of enrollment, transition, transportation, counseling and basic school supplies with community providers and schools and (5) revisions and updates on district's homeless education policies. Students in the tutoring program will receive assistance with homework and support in reading and math. Homeless students will also be provided after-school programming in the "Beyond the Bell" program (funded by another grant). Students will participate in field trips, have access to needed school supplies and health care products (back-packs with school supplies will be furnished). The transportation component will provide emergency transportation. In addition, the District will work collaboratively with the HUD Homeless Transportation Project to ensure that all homeless children who wish to remain in their school of origin will be granted this request through a no-cost transportation plan. A coordinated identification and awareness campaign by district staff and community agency staff will focus on developing brochures, posters, study groups, and professional development activities to create an awareness of issues faced by homeless children and youth in the community.

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2003-2006**

Name of LEA:	Spirit Lake Community School District
Project Director:	Sheryl K. Hall
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Amount of Grant:	\$23,000
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Project Period:	July 2003 to June 2004
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**Abstract:**

The project has four components. The goal of component one is to review local practices in school and in community agencies, modify them as needed to provide accurate identification of homeless children and youth and to post policies in official school documents and throughout the community. Component two is to provide more tutoring, supplemental instruction via tutor/mentors during school and before and after school K-12. A full-time tutor will be employed by the district to fill identified gaps in service. Component three is to better network school and community support services such as emergency placements, educational evaluations, personal supplies, and particularly transportation services for homeless to school, before and after school, job training and to extra curricular activities. Component four is to provide PreK-12 teacher/staff training on issues of teacher practices with respect to serving homeless students and parents. The training will be on-going and accomplished through district in-service days, through counselor coordination PreK-12, and through assistance from the curriculum coordinator using the trainer-of-trainer model.

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2003-2006**

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West Sioux Community School District  
Barb Besch

School Liaison for Homeless  
Children and Youth:

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Amount of Grant:

\$23,000

Project Period:

July 2003 to June 2004

**Abstract:**

McKinney-Vento funds will be used to expand the existing ***Bright Kids, Bright Futures Literacy Program***. This program provides after-school and summer extended learning opportunities for at-risk students. Homeless students will be served in these programs along with other at-risk students. Recent data collection in the district identified 15% of the student population as being homeless. The high percentage is primarily due to the influx of Hispanic migrants. The purpose of the program is to address the literacy needs of students who struggle to reach grade-level proficiency on reading assessments. After a reading assessment, teachers will group learners according to identified literacy needs. The program will incorporate the Picture Word Induction Model, Talk Aloud and Think Aloud Strategies, and utilize leveled text in literacy groups. Many hands-on learning activities will be incorporated into the themes units. Materials will feature life skills, self-esteem, social skills, character education, career opportunities, nutrition, and important health issues. A variety of vocabulary strategies will be incorporated into the instruction to address the learning needs of ELL students as well as students whose limited life experiences have resulted in knowledge-based and vocabulary deficits. Students will be provided with a nutritious snack. Four planned parent workshops will be conducted.

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GRANT  
2003 – 2006**

**Iowa Department of Education  
Bureau of Instructional Services  
June 2003**